



## U.S. Department of Justice

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**ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM CUBA SENTENCED**  
**FOR FEDERAL FIREARM, DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED CHARGES**

**GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** Alejandro Serrano Domenech, 35, and his brother William Serrano Domenech, 31, both of whom are citizens of Cuba and not legally present in the U.S., were sentenced today to 35 years and 19.5 years in prison respectively, U. S. Attorney Charles R. Gross announced. The two were convicted after a five-day jury trial in October 2007 of being illegal aliens in possession of firearms; possessing more than five grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute; possessing marijuana with intent to distribute; possessing firearms in furtherance of drug-trafficking crimes; and of being convicted felons in possession of firearms. Alejandro Domenech was also convicted of possessing counterfeit U.S. currency. U.S. District Judge Janet T. Neff imposed both sentences.

The crimes came to light shortly after midnight on April 4, 2006, when officers of the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police, and Dewitt Township Police Department were attempting to locate a person wanted on a State of Michigan arrest warrant in a motel in Clinton County. When they encountered Alejandro Domenech, he fought with the officers and, in the course of being subdued, he spit out a plastic bag of crack and cocaine and

dropping a switchblade knife. In the hotel room, the officers discovered and seized three loaded firearms; distribution quantities of narcotics that included cocaine, crack cocaine, and marijuana; drug-trafficking paraphernalia; and over \$4,000 in counterfeit U.S. currency.

After discovering that the Domenechs were Cuban nationals, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department contacted the Grand Rapids field office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (U.S. ICE). U.S. ICE investigation determined that the defendants were illegally present in the United States, and that they were also previously convicted felons. It was also determined by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. ICE that two of the firearms recovered from the motel room had been stolen by the Domenechs in New Mexico and that the Domenechs had been dealing drugs from various motels in the Clinton County area until they were discovered and arrested.

U.S. Attorney Gross attributed the arrest and successful prosecution of the defendants to the cooperative efforts of U.S. ICE, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, the Michigan State Police, the Dewitt Township Police Department, the U.S. Secret Service, ATF, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Brian M. Moskowitz, Special agent in Charge of the Office of Special Investigations for Michigan and Ohio, U.S. ICE, praised the case as "a great example of how the public benefits when local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies work together," noting also that "illegal immigration, gun trafficking, and drug trafficking are often linked together and only by using all of our combined authorities can we truly make a difference."

The case was prosecuted for the United States of America by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Hagen W. Frank and Elisa Castrolugo.

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